[Dact Robinson]   Southington Ct Jany 9th 1855

D Sir,

[Yours of 27th Dect, I received, & would with great pleasure comply with your request, if I thought I could state any thing in relation to your Father, Rev Wm Robinson, which has not been observed by others, & communicated to you, or of which you are not much better informed than I am.]

Personally I Knew your Father, more as a business man, and a private citizen, than as a Preacher; in fact he preached but little after I came here. I have not been able, since I received your letter, to see any of the aged people, and indeed but few remain, who could give much information respecting the earlier part of his ministry here. He was settled in the hard winter of 1780. [by the terms of settlement he was to receive One Hundred Pounds, or wheat at 4/ per bushel to that amount, and Twenty four cords of wood annually.] I do not Know what patrimony your Father might have had, but on such a salary, most men, with a family, would have remained poor, especially, as this was far from being paid with promptitude, prior to 1795. I have been told, that he collected a considerable part of his salary himself until 1795. receiving pay, in such articles as he could get, and Keeping an accurate account of all he received, in this way, as well as what he received from the Treasury. He was scrupulously exact in all his accounts, & was punctual in all his duties as a Pastor — I am not aware that he ever asked for an increase of his salary, or made complaint that

that it was not punctually paid, although he might justly have made such complaint, He actually remitted one or more years Ten Pounds of his Salary in consequence of the poverty of the Society he received but little from the members of his Society, in the way of presents, ~~or~~ in any other way, except for marriage fees, and if you have ever examined his record of marriages, you have noticed the amount received at every marriage solemnized by him; and that amount was small. — Par. But your Father had the good sense, to Know and feel, that the society was feeble; ~~small~~, that there were few if any wealthy members in it, and in fact until the close of the revolutionary war and for many years after the close of it, all were poor, In this situation he found it necessary to rely upon his own exertions to support himself, and family; & with the great good sense and judgment, which he possessed, he commenced early those habits of industry & and economy, which he continued to practice through life. And while he attended faithfully to all the duties of a Pastor, he had by his industry, economy, & wise management, as early as 1795. become, I suppose more wealthy, than any member of his congregation; insomuch, that many thought he was receiving too much pay, and was growing too rich.

Par. There had never, I believe been, a full examination of the accounts between your Father, & the Society, until about the year 1795. They then called a Society meeting, and appointed a Committee to examine the accounts, and ascertain whether he had not been overpaid, your Father had every cent credited that he had received, and upon the adjustment of their accounts, they found that the Society were in arrear, one or two years of his salary, They then, I think, so altered the original agreement, that he was to receive One Hundred & Ten Pounds salary, instead of his former Salary & wood, and ~~I believe~~ this was all that he ever received, until the close of his ministry.

Par

I have always understood, that your Father was very Kind to the poor, to the sick, and those in affliction; and while he exacted what was his due, from those who were able to pay, I believe the poor always considered him their friend, & had reason to bless him.

He had been much afflicted, by the death of members of his family, and always sympathized deeply with those who were afflicted.

He became extensively engaged in agriculture, and in the cultivation of his lands, was far in advance of his neighbors; & from him they derived much valuable instruction on that subject. He was always punctual in all his engagements, and wanted others to be so; & although they did not all profit by his example, yet many under his influence learned that important lesson, & practised it, through their lives.

Par He had a mind capable of mastering any subject upon which he wished to inform himself, there were branches of the law, in which he was as well informed, as almost any Lawyer in this State; and if he had devoted his time to the study of Law, or Politics, he would have become eminent either as a Lawyer or Statesman.

He took a deep interest in the education of the young, & I believe was appointed annually, until near the close of his ministry, one of the visiting Committee of our common schools, & one of the Committee for examining the ~~qualif~~ qualification of Teachers; & my impression is, that he visited all the schools in the society, twice or more every year, and gave to the Teachers and scholars, much valuable instruction.

I have been informed that he was in the habit of purchasing books, and distributing them among the poor children, whom he found in the schools destitute of books,— The influence, which he exerted in our schools, must have been salutary and remained long after he was gone.

As I have said, I knew personally but little about Mr Robinson as a Preacher — At the close of the Revolutionary war, French Infidelity prevailed throughout the country, and in some places, the prevalence of it became alarming — and even professors of religion imbibed doctrines, which your Father, who was a strict Calvinist, considered erroneous — Arminian views were cherished by many, and about this time the Episcopalians & Baptists began to hold meetings within his Society, & to inculcate doctrines, which neither of those sects would approve at the present day — To counteract all these evil tendencies, and to establish his people, upon what he considered the true doctrines of the bible, he began early to preach much upon doctrinal subjects, & continued that practice, more probably than most Ministers, through his life + The consequence was, that the members of his Society, were better informed, in the fundamental doctrines of our Religion, than the members of most churches are at the present day; and if his hearers were not all pleased, they were instructed in those great principles, which furnished them with materials for profitable reflection through life —

I am not perhaps a competent judge, but I do not believe, there was any congregation in this part of the country, so well instructed in the fundamental truths of Christianity as were the members of the Congregation to whom your Father preached; nor do I believe there was any other congregation in this vicinity, who were better judges of correct preaching, than ~~—~~ his congregation —

Par

Mr Robinson had read much, and had read thoroughly & understandingly; but I believe he spent more time in thinking than in reading, & from observation, reading, and reflection, he had stored his mind with a fund of knowledge, which made his society interesting, instructive, & useful — He knew well the value of time, & improved it. In the last year or two of his life, he used to call frequently at my office, & I always found his conversation pleasant, & profitable. I believe the estimate generally made of him, was, that he was one of the great men, in an age of great men.

[Since I read your letter, I have been, for two or three days, very unwell, & the balance of the time much engaged, — I have written the above hastily & more so than, I otherwise should, did I not fear that you might think I was neglecting your request —

I intended to send you, a catalogue of the members of our Church, which we have had printed within a few years, thinking you might gather some facts from that respecting the influence of his Ministry here, but I cannot, now lay my hand on a copy of it, but if you have not one, I will endeavor to procure one for you — & if I find any further facts, which I think would be of any use to you, I will forward them —]

Yours Respectfully
R. Lowrey

R. Lowry Esq
Jan. 9. 1863

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